

Community College; a board member of the Bergen County Urban League, NJ; an executive board member of the Garfield/Lodi Branch of the NAACP, NJ; and a member of Mt. Zion Lodge #50, F. & A.M. (PHA) of Hackensack, NJ.

He and his wife Brendalyn are the proud parents of three children: Terence Lamar, Gina Lynelle, and Calvin James; and the proud grandparents of Terence Laquan, Timothy Lamar and Mason James.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable work of Dr. Calvin McKinney, whose tireless efforts have touched the lives of the Calvary Baptist faith community and all who live in the Garfield area. I join with the grateful congregants of the Calvary Baptist Church, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING GREEN LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 21ST CEN- TURY READINESS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, in order for our students to be competitive in the global economy, we must do our part to ensure that they are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need for success. The skills needed for success go beyond the basics of reading, writing, and math, however. When surveyed, employers continually emphasize that, in our 21st century economy, students need to be adept at critical thinking and problem solving; communication; collaboration; and creativity and innovation, in addition to being proficient in core subjects.

While it's important to talk about these skills, it's even more important to see and recognize where they are being successfully incorporated into educational curriculums at the local level. Green Lake School District, located in Green Lake, Wisconsin, in my congressional district, is doing a lot of innovative work to prepare its students for success in the 21st century economy. Along with officials from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, I recently visited the Green Lake School District to learn about their efforts firsthand.

The School District is home to the state's first 4K–12 International Baccalaureate World program. It stresses rigorous academic programs connected to relevant real-world project-based learning and skills acquisition. The district also recently opened a Global & Environment Academy Charter middle school focused on critical thinking and problem solving skills in a project-based learning environment. The school's focus on interdisciplinary cooperation, global literacy, and creativity will serve its student's well as they prepare to enter the workforce.

It's important that Congress recognize the work that is being done in communities like Green Lake and that we look for ways to support these efforts. For these reasons, Rep. Dave Loebsack and I recently formed the bipartisan Congressional 21st Century Skills Caucus to inform and discuss better ways to promote 21st century skills in our nation's edu-

cational system. I invite all of my colleagues to join our efforts.

CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD CENTER FOR THE ARTS JAZZ ENSEMBLE FOR WINNING THE ESSENTIALLY ELLINGTON JAZZ BAND COMPETITION AND FES- TIVAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble of Fort Lauderdale, Florida for their continued achievements and excellence, in winning of the Essentially Ellington Jazz Band Competition and Festival, for two consecutive years.

In addition to these back-to-back championships, the Jazz Ensemble in 2012 also took second place in the "Essentially Ellington" competition. Furthermore, they won first place at the "Swing Central" jazz competition in Savannah, Georgia in both 2011 and 2010.

Unlike many other programs which have ample resources and funding, private donations are scarce to Dillard's Jazz Ensemble. Therefore, these students' achievements go beyond their musical talent but also speak to their dedication to perform and compete through fundraising to support their own program.

This resolve proves there are no limits to the creative spirit of Dillard's Jazz Ensemble and there are no limits to the success that these students can achieve. I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 26 members of the band as well as Jazz Ensemble director Christopher Dorsey, all of which have contributed to this program's continued successes. Members of Dillard's Jazz Ensemble are: Liza Honorat, Shanice Richards, Ben Stocker, Christian Cummings, Markus Howell, Demonn Sands, Johnathan Hainsworth, Kirby Fellis, Cameron Fegers, Jordan Davis, Sam Gellerstein, Max Boiko, Christian Dorsey, Anthony Hervey, Bryan McCall, Armando Zamora, Zach Auslander, Anthony Morrison, Zach McKinney, Charlie Steiner, Sydney Henry, Russell Hall, Sean Blair, Jake Ricke, Akeem Green, and Eric German.

Dillard High School was founded in the early twentieth century with funds from noted philanthropist James Hardy Dillard. The music program at Dillard High School gained fame when the legendary Julian "Cannonball" Adderley served as an instructor of applied music in the 1940s. To this day, the school still focuses on the performing arts and music, serving as a Performing Arts and Technology magnet school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Both Mr. Dillard and Mr. Adderley would be very proud to see the accomplishments of the program today.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these young musicians. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, and wish Dillard's jazz program continued success. It is an honor to give the Dillard Center for the Arts Jazz Ensemble the recognition it rightly deserves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2012, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall No. 215. I intended to vote "no," and I ask that the RECORD reflect that I oppose the Huizenga Amendment to H.R. 5326, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5801, THE US LEADS ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the higher education system in the United States is the envy of the world. The universities here are a part of America's backbone, providing young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's global economy.

However, Mr. Speaker, as the value of a college education has risen, so has the cost of tuition at universities across the country. Nowhere is this truer than in public universities in the state of California where budget cuts, furlough days, and tuition increases have become the new normal.

Average in-State tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions of higher education have risen 8.3 percent between the 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 academic years. The tuition hikes at public universities threaten access to higher education for millions of low and middle-income students who have worked hard in high school and deserve to go to college.

As a result of the increase in tuition at public and private universities, student loan debt now exceeds credit card debt (totaling \$870 billion) and is expected to reach one trillion dollars this year. Students graduating from college between 2006 and 2010 had a median student loan debt of \$20,000.

I am the proud sponsor of H.R. 5801, the Unshackling Students to Lead, Excel, Act, Develop and Succeed Act, or the "U.S. LEADS Act," which will provide student loan debt relief for recent college graduates searching for employment.

The U.S. LEADS Act, would assist recent college graduates who are entering a difficult job market by allowing them to defer payment on their federal student loans without accruing interest when the national unemployment rate exceeds seven percent, or when the unemployment rate for 21–25 year olds exceeds nine percent.

We know that a college education is one of defining markers in determining an individual's economic security. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for the civilian population 25 years and over with at least a bachelor's degree is 4.2% while the rate for individuals with only a high school degree is 10.7%.

Helping young Americans pursue higher education provides them with the most secure pathway to the middle class and is an investment in our country's future. Our economy depends on an educated citizenry to out-compete and out-innovate the rest of the world,